

Such is the situation of man,
and such his inclination to err, that frequent reflection
is absolutely necessary to his progressive happiness
in life, and his eternal felicity beyond this precarious
existence. Every step, he takes, every employment, he pursues,
should first be attentively examined by a sedate and reflect-
ing mind; or he will most certainly lose his object,
and experience the pangs of cruel disappointment.

During the period of infancy, while the mind is in-
capable of reflection, and of choosing the course, which
leads to happiness and honour, parental instructions,
or experienced teachers are of inconceivable importance.
They can instil into the immature mind the principles
of virtue, which, when once embraced serve as effectual
barriers against vice, and all those follies, which are incident
to man. But it is not unfrequently the case, that individuals
when left to themselves, are regardless of their own interest,
and by repeated inconsiderate acts plunge themselves
into the vortex of misery and sorrow. Thousands have
lamented, too late, their wilful inconsideration, and

except at the retrospection of their own extreme folly,
when their condition was desperate. We cannot suppose
that there ever was a man, who was hurried on by his thirst
of revenge to take the life of his foe, but had occasion to
condemn his precipitant rashness, upon due reflection. Had
he suitably considered the evil effects of such a crime
in a moment when his passions were undisturbed, and judiciously
yielded to reason, he might have saved himself from many
unavailing sighs and fruitless lamentations. It is inconsidera-
tion, that dangerous foe to man, which veils the world in
mourning and brings multitudes to a miserable and
untimely grave.

The real advantage of ever
keeping the mind in a reflecting, and serious state is of
incalculable importance in every pursuit of life. It
strengthens the memory, removes the obstacles to happiness,
and greatly improves & enriches the understanding. The
attention is taken from those trifling, and frequently
criminal subjects, which are too apt to occupy the mind
and render it entirely unfruitful. Every object in nature
presents a rich source of reflection from which lessons
of useful instruction may be acquired. This with no incon

siderable pleasure that we examine the works of creation
and trace effects to their respective causes, and these causes
to the great first ~~mover~~ of all things. When we turn our
attention from surrounding objects and view
the wonderful display of infinite wisdom and power
in the existence and revolutions of innumerable worlds
all revolving in their respective orbits, we are lost in
admiration and ~~pleasure~~. But when we open the
sacred oracles, the field of meditation is widely extended
and the range of our ideas greatly enlarged. There
are revealed the wonders of redemption, which will
ever employ the minds of Angels, and fill them
with increasing astonishment. There we see man's
immortality in its proper view: We see the day of
general judgement; the glory of the new Jerusalem:
subjects particularly interesting to man, which should
ever be retained in memory and regulate all his
actions. We could scarce suppose it possible, that
subjects of such a nature so intimately connected
with our present and future welfare, would be
treated with such indifference. But the Christian
enters deeply into these things and derives all his

support from those living truths. When he reflects upon the divine government extending from the fall of empires to the flying of a mote in the air his heart is inflamed with sacred love and his happiness is rendered more complete. He views the finger of God in every event, from the destruction of Kingdoms to the bursting of a bubble. However mysterious and incomprehensible the divine plans may appear, yet this is a consoling reflection that a Being of infinite wisdom directs & disposes of every thing in such a manner as to produce the greatest possible good.

In futurity we may rationally conclude that reflection will give additional reason for sacred pleasure in every sanctified heart, and raise still higher their songs of adoration & praise. Reflecting upon the pit from whence he was saved, by the blood of the covenant his heart will swell with gratitude & love for the excellent display of redeeming grace.

{ Levi Parsons }